

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A kayak paddle support for a vessel, comprising:
an upright support member of adjustable length;
a retainer at a top portion of the upright support member for retaining a paddle while allowing the paddle to be manipulated in a range of operation motion;
an elastic member connected to the retainer and the upright support member to allow the paddle a greater range of motion by allowing the paddle to extend past the overall length of the upright support member; and
an elongated member connected to the upright support member, and the elongated member having clamps at opposing ends for attaching to the vessel.
2. The paddle support according to claim 1, wherein the upright support member includes at least an upper and a lower support member.
3. The paddle support according to claim 2, wherein the upper and lower support members are hollow tubing so that the upper support member slidably fits within the lower support member.
4. The paddle support according to claim 3, wherein the upright support member has a device for adjusting the height between the upper and lower support members.
5. The paddle support according to claim 3, wherein the elastic member having opposing first and second ends is connected to an upper portion of the upper support member at the first end and connected to a lower portion of the lower support member at the second end.
6. The paddle support according to claim 1, wherein the upright support member has a base portion.
7. The paddle support according to claim 6, wherein the base portion is slidably connected with the elongated member.
8. The paddle support according to claim 6, wherein the base portion is located at the bottom end of the upright support member and the base portion allows the upright support member to pivot about the base portion.
9. The paddle support according to claim 6, wherein the base portion has a suction cup portion for attaching to a surface.
10. The paddle support according to claim 1, wherein the clamps are slidably adjustable along the elongate member.
11. The paddle support according to claim 10, wherein the upper support member has a plurality of holes spaced along the longitudinal axis of the upper support member.

12. The paddle support according to claim 11, wherein the mechanism for adjusting the height is a plug that is inserted into one of the plurality of holes to fix the upper support member to a predetermined height via the tension within the elastic member.

13. The paddle support according to claim 5, wherein the elastic member causes the upper and lower support member to be biased toward one another in a retracted predetermined position, allows the upper support member to extend past the lower support member to an extended position upon application of a sufficient external force, and then causes automatic return of the upper and lower support members to the retracted position upon release of the external force.

14. The paddle support according to claim 1, further comprising a leash that attaches the vessel and paddle support to one another.

15. The paddle support according to claim 14, wherein the leash has opposing ends, wherein one of the opposing ends is fixed to one of the clamps and the other opposing free end is releasably attachable to a second one of the clamps.

16. A method of using the paddle support of claim 1, comprising mounting the paddle support on a skirt of the vessel.

17. A method of using the paddle support of claim 1, comprising mounting the paddle support on an inner bottom surface of the vessel.

18. A method of using the paddle support of claim 1, comprising attaching the clamps to a rim of a vessel opening so that the paddle support is suspended across the vessel opening.

19. A method of using the paddle support of claim 15, comprising:
 mounting the paddle support clamps to the vessel;
 wrapping the position free end of the leash around a rear portion of a vessel opening behind a user; and
 attaching the free end of the leash to the second clamp.

20. A kayak paddle support for a vessel, comprising:
 an upright support member of adjustable length that is fixable at a predetermined height;
 a retainer at a top portion of the upright support member for retaining a paddle while allowing the paddle to be manipulated in a range of operation motion;
 an elastic member connected to the retainer and the upright support member to bias the retainer and the upright support member towards each other and allow the paddle a greater range of motion by allowing the paddle to extend past a predetermined set height of

an elastic member connected to the retainer and the upright support member to bias the retainer and the upright support member towards each other and allow the paddle a greater range of motion by allowing the paddle to extend past a predetermined set height of the upright support member upon application of sufficient external force, and allow return of the paddle to the predetermined set height upon release of the external force; and

an elongated member connected to the upright support member, and the elongated member having clamps at opposing ends attachable to the vessel.

21. The paddle support according to claim 20, wherein the upright support member includes at least an upper and a lower support member.

22. The paddle support according to claim 21, wherein the upper and lower support are telescopic.